

1 MACCABEES 1



1611 King James Version

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Also Read **1 Maccabees** in the
1535 Coverdale, 1537 Matthew's,
1539 Taverner's, 1540 Great Bible,
and the 1560 Geneva Bible versions.

1=1 And it happened, after that
Alexander son of Philip, the
Macedonian, who came out of the
land of Chettum, had smitten
Darius king of the Persians and
Medes, that he reigned in his
stead, the first over Greece,
1=2 And made many wars, and
won many strong holds, and slew
the kings of the earth,
1=3 And went through to the ends
of the earth, and took spoils of
many nations, insomuch, that the
earth was quiet before him,
whereupon he was exalted, and
his heart was lifted up.

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1:4 And he gathered a mighty strong host, and ruled over countries, and nations and kings, who became tributaries unto him.

1:5 And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die.

1:6 Wherefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive.

1:7 So Alexander reigned twelve years, and (then) died.

1:8 And his servants bare rule every one in his place.

1:9 And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves so did their sons after them, many years, and evils were multiplied in the earth.

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1: 10 And there came out of them a wicked root, Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he reigned in the hundreth and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

1: 11 In those days went there out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying, Let us go, and make a covenant with the heathen, that are round about us: for since we departed from them, we have had much sorrow.

1: 12 So this device pleased them well.

1: 13 Then certain of the people were so forward herein, that they went to the king, who gave them license to do after the ordinances of the heathen.

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1: 14 Whereupon they built a place of exercise at Jerusalem, according to the customs of the heathen,

1: 15 And made themselves, uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.

1: 16 Now when the kingdom was established, before Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt that he might have the dominion of two realms:

1: 17 Wherefore he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great navy,

1: 18 And made war against Ptolemee king of Egypt, but Ptolemee was afraid of him, and fled: and many were wounded to death.

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1:19 Thus they got the strong cities in the land of Egypt, and he took the spoils thereof.

1:20 And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude,

1:21 And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof,

1:22 And the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials. and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off.

1:23 He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious

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vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found:

1:24 And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly.

1:25 Therefore there was a great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were;

1:26 So that the princes and elders mourned, the virgins and young men were made feeble, and the beauty of women was changed.

1:27 Every bridegroom took up lamentation, and she that sat in the marriage chamber, was in heaviness.

1:28 The land also was moved for the inhabitants thereof, and all the house of Jacob was covered with confusion.

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1:29 And after two years fully expired, the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude,

1:30 And spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel.

1:31 And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he set it on fire, and pulled down the houses, and walls thereof on every side.

1:32 But the women and children took they captive, and possessed the cattle.

1:33 Then builded they the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with mighty towers, and made it a strong hold for them,

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1:34 And they put therein a sinful nation, wicked men, and fortified themselves therein.

1:35 They stored it also with armour and victuals, and when they had gathered together the spoils of Jerusalem, they laid them up there, and so they became a sore snare:

1:36 For it was a place to lie in wait against the Sanctuary, and an evil adversary to Israel.

1:37 Thus they shed innocent blood on every side of the Sanctuary, and defiled it.

1:38 Insomuch that the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled because of them, whereupon the city was made an habitation of strangers, and became strange to those that were born in her, and her own children left her.

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1:39 Her Sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her feasts were turned into mourning, her Sabbaths into reproach, her honour into contempt.

1:40 As had been her glory, so was her dishonour increased, and her excellency was turned into mourning.

1:41 Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people,

1:42 And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed, according to the commandment of the king.

1:43 Yea many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the Sabbath.

1:44 For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem, and the cities of Juda that they

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should follow the strange laws of
the land,

1:45 And forbid burnt offerings,
and sacrifice, and drink offerings
in the temple; and that they
should profane the Sabbaths and
festival days:

1:46 And pollute the Sanctuary
and holy people:

1:47 Set up altars, and groves,
and chapels of idols, and
sacrifice swine's flesh, and
unclean beasts:

1:48 That they should also leave
their children uncircumcised, and
make their souls abominable with
all manner of uncleanness, and
profanation:

1:49 To the end they might forget
the Law, and change all the
ordinances.

1:50 And whosoever would not
do according to the

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commandment of the king he said he should die.

1:51 In the self same manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by city.

1:52 Then many of the people were gathered unto them, to wit, every one that forsook the Law, and so they committed evils in the land:

1:53 And drove the Israelites into secret places, even wheresoever they could flee for succour.

1:54 Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundreth forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the Altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda, on every side;

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1:55 And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets.

1:56 And when they had rent in pieces the books of the Law which they found, they burnt them with fire.

1:57 And wheresoever was found with any, the book of the Testament, or if any consented to the Law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death.


1:58 Thus did they by their authority, unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

1:59 Now the five and twentieth day of the month, they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the Altar of God.

1:60 At which time, according to the commandment, they put to

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death certain women that had caused their children to be circumcised.

1:61  And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them.

1:62 Howbeit, many in Israel were fully **resolved and confirmed in themselves, not to eat any unclean thing.**

1:63 Wherefore they chose rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy Covenant: So then they died.

1:64 And there was very great wrath upon Israel.

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After that Alexander the sonne of Philippe, kynge of Macedonia wente forth of the londe of Cethim, and slewe Darius kynge of the persians and Medes: It happened, that he toke greate warres in honde, wanne very many stronge cities, and slew many kinges of y^e earth: goinge thorow to y^e endes of the worlde, and gettinge many spoyles of the people: In so moch, y^e the worlde stode in greate awe of him, z therfore was he proude in his herte. Now whē he had gathered a mightie strōge hoost, z subdued y^e lōdes and people with their prynces, so that they became tributaries vnto hī: he fell sick. And whē he perceaued that he must nedes die, he called for his noble estates (which had bene brought vp with him of children) z parted his kyngdome amonge them, whyle he was yet alyue. So Alexander raygned xij. yea re, and then dyed.

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After his death fell the Kyngdome vnto his prynces, and they optayned it euery one in his rowme, and caused them selues to be crowned as Kynges: and so dyd their childre after them many yeares, ⁊ moch wickēnesse increaced in the worlde. Out of these came y vngracious rote, noble Antiochus y sonne of Antiochus the Kyng (which had bene a pledge at Rome) ⁊ he raigne in y Cxxxvij. yeare of the raigne of the Grekes.

In those dayes wēte there out of Israel wickēd men, which moued moch people w their coucel, sayēge: Let vs go ⁊ make a couenaunt with the Heithen, y are rounde aboute vs: for sence we departed from them, we haue had moch sorow. So this deuyce pleased them well, and certayne of y people toke vpon the for to go vnto y Kyng, which gaue them licence to do after the ordinaūce of the Heithen. Then set they vp an open sco

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le (at Jerusalem) of the lawes of the heithē,
and were nomore circumcised: but forsoke y
holy Testamente, and ioyned them selues to
y heithē, z were cleane solde to do myschese.

So when Antiochus beganne to be mightie in his kyngdome, he wente aboute to op-
tayne y londe of Egipte also, that he might
haue the dominion of two realmes. Upon
this entred he in to Egipte with a stronge
hoost, with charettes, elephantes, horsmen z
a greate nombre of shippes, and beganne to
warre agaynst ptolomy the kyng of Egipt
te. But ptolomy was afrayed of him, and
fled: and many of his people were wounded
to death. Thus Antiochus wāne many stro-
ge cities, and toke awaye great good out of
the londe of Egipte.

And after that Antiochus had smytten
Egipte, he turned agayne in the Cxliij. yere
z wente towarde Israel, and came vp to Je-
rusalem with a mightie people: and entred
proudly into y Sanctuary, and toke awaye

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the golden altare, the candilstickē and all y^e ornamētes therof: the table of the shewbred the pouringē vessel, the chargers, the golden spones, the vāle, the crownes and golden apparel of the temple, and brake downe all. He toke also the syluer and golde, the precious Jewels, and the secret treasures that he fōūde. And when he had taken awaye altogether, caused a greate murthur of men, and so fulfilled his malicious pryde, he departed in to his owne londe.

Thus there arose greate heuinesse and misery in all the londe of Israel. The prynces and the elders of the people mourned, the y^engemen and the maydens were defyled, and the fayre beutye of women was chaunged: the brydegrome and the bryde toke them to mournynge: the londe and those that dwelt therein, was moued: for all the house of Jacob was brought to confucion.

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After two yeares the Kyng sent his che-
fe treasurer vnto the cities of Juda, which
came to Jerusalem with a greate multitude
of people, speakinge peaceable wordes vnto
chē, but all was disceate: for when they had
geuen him credence, he fell sodēly vpon the
cite, and smote it sore, and destroyed moch
people of Israel. And when he had spoyled

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the cite, he set fyre on it, castinge downe houses and walles on euery syde. The women & their children toke they captiue, and led awaye their catell. Then buylded they the castel of Dauid with a greate and thicke wall, and with mightie towres, & made it a stronge holde for them. Besyde all this they sett wicked people and vngodly men to kepe it, stored it with weapens and vytales: gathered the goodes of Ierusalem, and layed the vp there: thus became it a theuyshe castell.

And this was done to laye waite for the people, that wente in to the Sanctuary, and for the cruell destruccion of Israel. Thus they shed innocent bloude on euery syde of the Sanctuary, and defyled it: In somoch that the cite syns were fayne to departe, and the cite became an habitacion of straungers, beyng desolate of hir owne sede, for hir owne natyues were fayne to leaue her. Hir Sanctuary was cleene waisted, hir holy dayes were turned in to mournynge, hir Sabbathes were had in derision, and hir heno^r brought

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to naught. Loke how greate hir glory was afore, so greate was hir confucion, and hir ioye turned in to sorow.

Antiochus also the Kyng sent out a commission vnto all his Kyngdome, that all the people shulde be one. Then they left euery man his lawe, and all the heithen agreed to the cōmaundement of Kyng Antiochus: Yee many of the Israelites consented there vnto, offerynge vnto Idols, and defylinge the Sabbath. So the Kyng Antiochus sent his messangers with his commission vnto Jerusalem, and to all y cities of Iuda: that they shulde folowe y lawes of the heithē, and forbad ether burnt offerynge, meat offerynge or peace offerynge to be made in the temple of God, z that there shulde no Sabbath ner hye feast daye be kepte: but commaunded, that the Sanctuary and the holy people of Israel shulde be defyled.

He commaunded also that there shulde be set vp other altares, temples and Idols: to offre vp swynes flesh and other vncleane

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beastes: that men shulde leaue their children
uncircumcised, to defyle their soules with
all maner of viciennesse & abhominacions:
that they might so forget the lawe, and
chaunge all the holy ordinaunces of God:
and that who so euer wolde not do a cordin-
ge to the commaundement of Kyng Antio-
chus, shulde suffre death. In like maner
commaunded he thorow out all his realme,
and sett rulers ouer the people, for to com-
pell them to do these thynges, commaundin-
ge the cities of Iuda to do sacrifice vnto
Idols.

Then wente the people vnto the hei-
then by heapes, forsoke the lawe of the LOR-
DE, and committed moch euell in the londe:
yee and chaced out the secrete Israelites,
which had hyd them selues in corners and
preuy places. The xv. daye of the moneth
Casleu, in the Cxlv. yeare, set Kyng Antio-
chus an abhominable Idol of desolacion v-
pon the altare of God, and they buylded al-
tares thorow out all the cities of Iuda on
euery syde, before the doores of the houses,
and in the stretes: where they brent incen-

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se, and dyd sacrifice. And as for the booke of the lawe of God, they brent them in the fyre, and rente them in peces. What so euer, he was that had a booke of the Testament of the L O R D E founde by hym, yee who so euer endored himself to kepe the lawe of the L O R D E, the Kynges commaundement was, y they shulde put him to death. And thow his anctonite they executed these thinges euery moneth, vpon the people of Israel that were founde in the cities.

The fyue and twentye daye of the moneth, what tyme as they dyd sacrifice vpon the altare (which stode in the steade of the altare of the L O R D E) acordinge to the commaundement of Kyng Antiochus, they put certayne women to death, which had caused their children to be circumcised: Not only that, but they hanged vp the children by the neckes thow out all their houses, and slewe the circumcisers of them.

Yet were there many of the people of Is-

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rael, which determed in them selues, that they wolde not eate vncleane thinges: but chose rather to suffre death, then to be defyled with vncleane meates. So because they wolde not breake the blessed lawe of God, they were cruelly slayne. And this greaue tyranny increased very sore vpon the people of Israel.